

State of Women: A County by County Report on Women and Girls in Massachusetts Berkshire County

Basic Demographics

Female Population

Total: 70,406

Under 21.....	24.84%
21 to 34.....	14.69%
35 to 64.....	39.71%
65 and over.....	20.75%

Households, Year 2000

Total: 56,006

Female householder, no husband present...	10.99%
With children under 6.....	22.28%
With children under 18.....	61.40%

Earnings and Employment

Median Earnings in 1999

Male.....	\$28,264
Female.....	\$17,257

The Living Wage in 2003

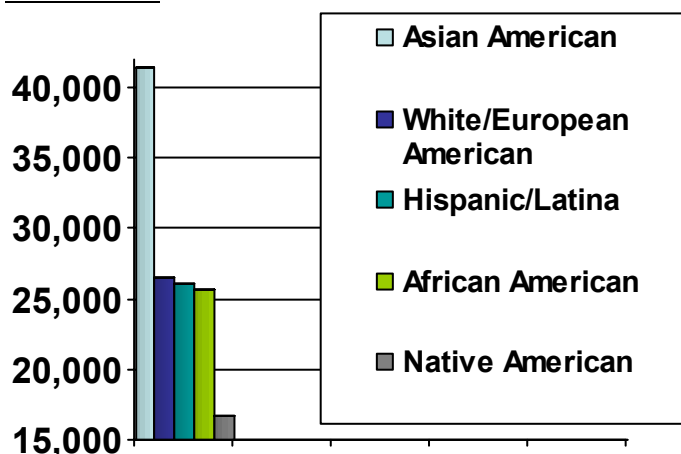
For one Adult and 2 children, one in pre-school and one in elementary school.....\$35,160-34,876
For 2 Adults and 2 children, one in pre-school and one in elementary school.....\$41,202-41,910

- Berkshire County has the lowest range of self-sufficiency in the state.

Percentage of Women Living in Poverty in 1999

All women.....	10.33%
Girls under 5.....	19.08%
Women over 65.....	6.08%
Families.....	8.43%

Median Earnings for Full-Time, Female Workers by Race in 1999



Employment Status of Women, Year 2000

Employed: 32,015

Unemployed in Labor Force: 1,499

Not in Labor Force: 23,959

Education

Female Educational Attainment Age 25+ in 2000

No High School Diploma.....	15.29%
High School Graduate.....	51.88%
Associate or Professional Degree.....	9.59%
Bachelor's Degree.....	14.38%
Master's Degree.....	7.92%
Doctorate Degree.....	0.92%

2003 Female Public High School

Drop-Out Rate

Massachusetts State Average.....	2.79%
Berkshire County Average.....	4.57%

Health and Wellness

Reproductive Health

- In 2004, 122 new mothers (9.40%) in Berkshire County were adolescents of age 20 or younger.
- That same year 190 pregnant women (14.70%) did not receive any prenatal care in their first trimester.
- 43.10% of new mothers in Berkshire County utilized publicly funded prenatal care in 2004—a total of 546 women.
- Approximately 34% of teen mothers smoke during their pregnancy in Berkshire County, the highest in the state.

HIV and AIDS

- In April of 2000, 13 women were living with HIV and 7 women were living with AIDS in Berkshire County.

Smoking

- 25.00% of women in Berkshire County are regular smokers and 32.40% of women reported to be former smokers; this is the largest percentage of regular and former smokers in the state.
- Between 2001 and 2003, 144 women died from either bronchus or lung cancer.

Political Participation in 2006

Females elected to the State House: 0 (0%)

❖ Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women ❖

Charles F. Hurley Building ❖ 19 Staniford Street, 6th Floor ❖ Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2502
Tel: 617.626.6520 ❖ Fax: 617.626.6530 ❖ Email: mcsww@state.ma.us ❖ Web: www.mass.gov/women